

**The Iron Age**

The Iron Age is the name given to the time period in which iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools. It followed the Bronze Age, which had followed the Stone Age.

The Iron Age began in the Ancient Near East (today the countries of the Middle East) around 1200BC, spreading quickly to the Mediterranean basin and to South Asia. However, it did not reach central Asia until some time later, and did not reach Northern Europe until around 500 BC. The Iron Age in Britain is defined as being between 800BC and 43AD.

**The Celts and Britain**

The Celtic peoples travelled over to Britain from mainland Europe around 500BC, and lived in dispersed tribes around the country. European links were reinforced by trade between the southern half of Britain and continental Europe. In 43AD Britain was invaded by the Romans – the following 'Romanisation' is generally considered to signal the end of the British Iron Age.

**The Roman Empire**

The Roman Iron Age took place long before Rome became a mighty empire, but it is partially thanks to the use of iron weapons that the Roman military was so effective.

Towards the end of the second century BC, Roman influence grew across the European continent, initially through trade. As the Romans then began to rapidly invade other civilisations and expand its empire, the Iron Age in these countries came to an end. The Roman Empire would go on to become one of the mightiest Empires the world has seen, extending over all of western and southern Europe, as well as the Mediterranean coastal regions of Africa.

**The end of the Roman rule in Britain**

\* Around 250 AD the Roman Empire became very large and they needed more soldiers. It was difficult to maintain such a big army and the Romans started to have problems because of this.

\* Too many rebels attacked and by 400 AD the Roman Army left Britain.

**Timeline of Events**

750BC – 12AD	Celts lived in Britain
800BC – 43AD	Iron Age
45BC	Julius Caesar first dictator of Rome
55BC	Romans invaded Britain
61AD	Boudicca attacked the Romans
121AD	Hadrian's wall is built
400AD	The Romans left Britain

**Famous People**

Julius Caesar	The general of Rome
Prasutagus	The leader of a Celt tribe
Boudicca	The wife of Prasutagus

**Roman Life in Britain**

Life in Britain became more like life in Rome.

The Romans introduced:  
The calendar we still use today.  
Roads and paved streets  
Central heating  
Aqueducts (water bridges)  
Towns and Libraries  
Fire and Police people  
Stinging nettles  
Cats  
Cement and bricks  
Language (Latin)  
Cabbages, peas, grapes, pears, turnips, carrots

**Boudicca**

\* Prasutagus ruled a tribe in Britain. His wife was called Boudica.

\* After Prasutagus died, the Roman Army wanted to take over all of his land.

\* Boudica went to London to rebel and attack the Roman Army.

\* But the Roman Army were better organised and defeated her.

**Vocabulary**

Celts	People living in Britain and some parts of Europe after the Iron Age
tribe	A group of people linked by where they live or are related to
army	An organised group of people used for fighting
chiefs	Leader, ruler or king.
emperor	Leader, ruler or king of an empire
empire	Many countries that are ruled by one leader
BC (Before Christ)	Used to show the years before Jesus was born
AD (Anno Domini)	Used to show the years after Jesus was born.
settlement	A place where people decide to live
invasion	When a foreign army enters a country by force
conquer	Take control of another land
resources	The valuable things that can be found in a country.
legions	A group of 4000-6000 Roman soldiers
defeated	When one side or person is beaten in battle
archaeologists	A person who studies history through the excavation (clearing) of historic sites and items
artefacts	Items from history made by a human

